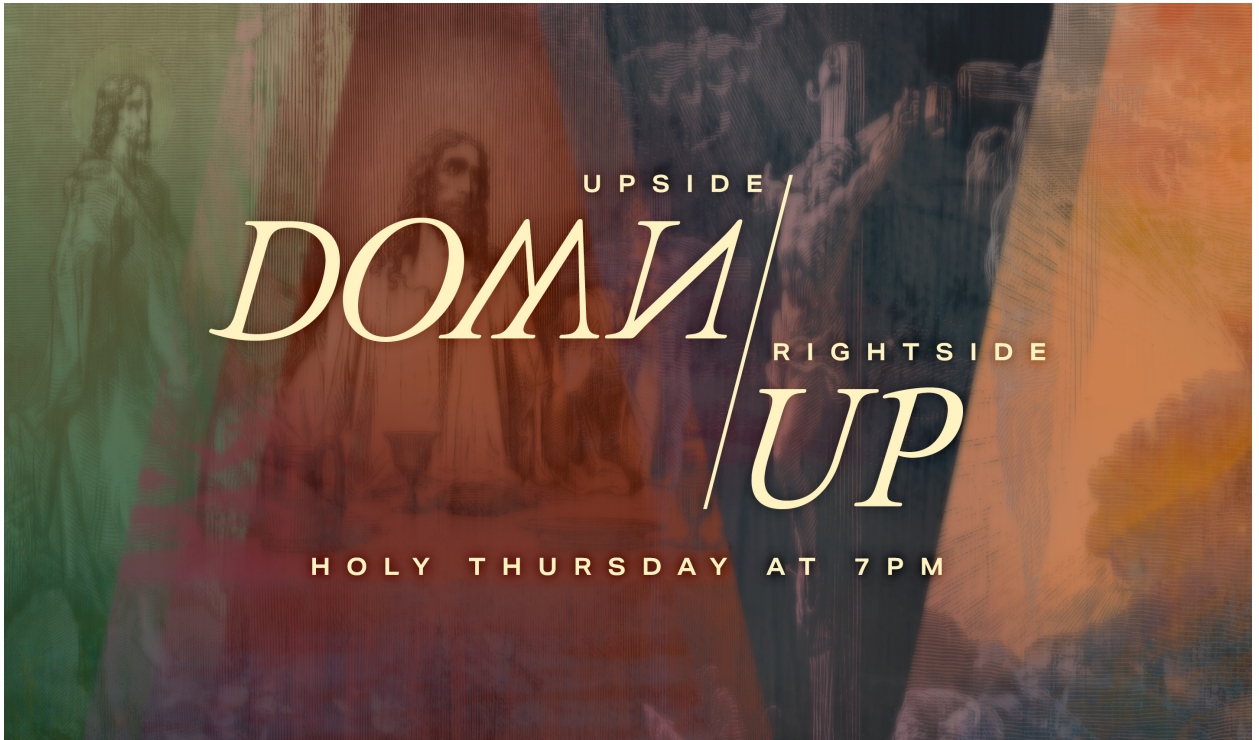


ORDER OF WORSHIP
April 17, 2025
Holy Thursday

7:00PM



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to Central

Get connected at Central



Worshipping as a Family

Accessibility

Welcome Registry

Prayer

Holy Thursday

Whether you're just beginning to explore the Christian faith or a longtime believer, we're glad you're here and pray you will experience the love and grace of Jesus today. Central is for anyone who wants to learn more about Jesus Christ and grow together in real community.

Especially if this is your first time as our guest, welcome. We are thrilled you are here, and would love to connect with you. You are encouraged to fill out a connection card at one of our welcome tables in either lobby or in the Fellowship Hall, or simply scan the QR code.

Children are always welcome in our worship services and Holy Week is no exception! Tonight and tomorrow night there will be no Nursery or Children's Worship so everyone can participate in worship as a family. A nursing mother's room is located on the first floor off of the Fellowship Hall. On Easter Sunday, our Nursery (for ages 8 weeks through 3 years) will be open, however there will be no Children's Worship (ages 3 through kindergarten) during the sermon.

Large print bulletins are available from our ushers. Amplification devices are also available from the ushers at the rear of the sanctuary.

Located in each pew is a "Welcome Registry." We encourage you to please use this to let us know you worshiped at Central today. After putting your name down, please pass the book down your pew.

At Central, we believe in the power of prayer. You are invited to submit your prayer requests using the cards located in the pew, or online at centralpres.com/prayer. You can also email your prayer requests to prayer@centralpres.com. If you would like to pray with someone today, please visit the prayer room after either service.

On Holy Thursday, we commemorate the first Lord's Supper, which Jesus shared with his disciples when he was preparing them for his imminent death. In the midst of that night of pain and fear, Jesus comforted his disciples by loving them and teaching them to love one another, and we will receive that same love from Jesus in his words from that night and in the Supper that he continues to share with us. After that first Supper, Jesus sang a psalm with his disciples and went to a garden to pray in anguish as he began to be stripped of every comfort, and we will finish the service by praying about our anguish with a psalm and turning our hearts toward the cross as the communion table is stripped bare.

Songs of worship are used with permission. CCLI #100150

Ah, Holy Jesus

Chancel Ringers | Matthew Mazzoni, *director*

Music by Johann Crüger;
Arr. Philip L. Roberts

Prelude

Standing (if able)

from Psalm 106:1; 116:13; 34:8, 10

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Suffering Servant,
the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

**I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
for those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**

God Calls Us To Worship

God gathers us before his heavenly throne for a special time to renew our relationship with him together.

What Wondrous Love Is This



1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What won-drous love is
2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing
3. You friends of Zi-on's king, join his praise, join his praise, you friends of Zi-on's
4. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing. To God and to the



this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of
down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing down be - neath God's right-eous
king, join his praise. You friends of Zi-on's king, with hearts and voi - ces
Lamb I will sing! To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I



bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul, for my
frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my
sing, that loud Christ's pas - sion rings in his praise, in his
AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will



soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
soul! Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul!
praise, that loud Christ's pas - sion rings in his praise.
sing. While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.

We Praise God

We respond to God's call by honoring his majesty and goodness in song.

Text: S. Mead's *A General Selection*, 1811

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE; William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835

We Pray For God To Help Us Worship

We ask the Lord to work
in us by his Holy Spirit
to give us the desire and
ability to respond to him
in worship.

God Calls Us To Confess Our Sin

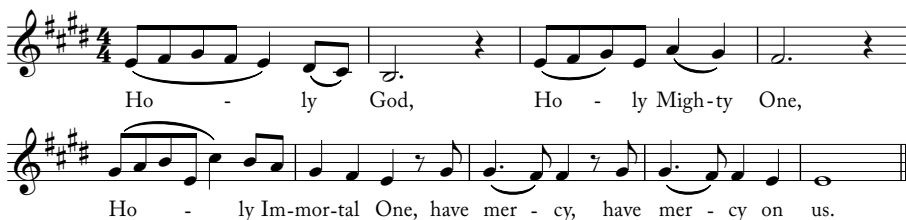
Christ humbled himself to give his life for us.
Therefore God has highly exalted him!

Seated

from Psalm 139:23-24

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden:
Search us and know our hearts! Try us and know our thoughts!
See if there be any grievous way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting,
that we may perfectly love you and one another and honor your great name.

Trisagion (sing three times)



Text: Traditional Greek prayer

Tune: Fernando Ortega

© 2011 Curb Songs (ASCAP)/Credo Verde Music (ASCAP)

Loving Lord,
we confess that we do not love as you have loved us
in giving your life generously to us.

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.
and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have forgotten your love,
and so we have wandered from your way
and have betrayed you and your mission for us.
We have longed for worldly success and security,
and so we have rejected the sacrifices love demands,
being eager to be served rather than to serve.
Lord, have mercy on us.**

(silent prayers of confession)

Gracious Father, we lament our refusal to love and the damage and pain that our lack of love causes to others, to ourselves, and to the honor and glory of your name. Help us to love you with all of our heart, mind, and strength, and unite us in love with each other so that we serve one another as true friends bound together by your abiding love in us. Amen.

All sing: Trisagion (above)

Standing (if able)

from 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24

God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

For all who have turned from sin in sorrow and look to God for mercy, this is God's gift. In Jesus Christ, God loves you, God forgives you, God accepts you, and God rejoices over you as beloved daughters and sons.

Hallelujah, Amen!

We Confess Our Sin

Together as the people of God, we acknowledge honestly to God what is wrong and broken in us and ask for his forgiveness and transforming grace.

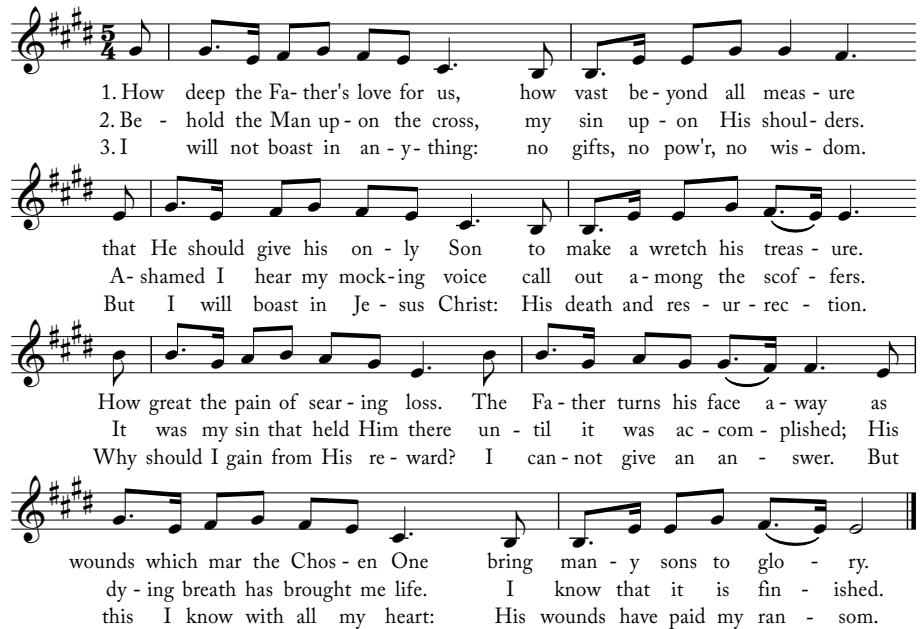
God Declares Our Forgiveness

God responds joyfully to our confession by declaring his forgiveness and the security of his grace and delight in us as his beloved daughters and sons.

We Praise God

Having been assured of God's favor, we offer thanks and praise for salvation from sin and reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ.

How Deep the Father's Love



1. How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all meas-ure
2. Be - hold the Man up - on the cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders.
3. I will not boast in an - y - thing: no gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom.
that He should give his on - ly Son to make a wretch his treas - ure.
A - shamed I hear my mock - ing voice call out a - mong the scof - fers.
But I will boast in Je - sus Christ: His death and res - ur - rec - tion.
How great the pain of sear - ing loss. The Fa - ther turns his face a - way as
It was my sin that held Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; His
Why should I gain from His re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But
wounds which mar the Chos - en One bring man - y sons to glo - ry.
dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin - ished.
this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran - som.

Text and tune: Stuart Townend
© 1995 Thankyou Music

Seated

God Instructs Us In Scripture Reading

God speaks to us through the Bible to instruct, encourage, correct, comfort, and equip us to know, love, and follow him.

We respond to God by affirming our trust in his word.

God Instructs Us In Preaching

God speaks to us to explain what his word means and how to respond to him with loving obedience in our daily lives.

John 13:1-20

Pew Bible page 900

The Lord teaches the humble his way.

My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word.

Psalms 25:9; 119:81

"Upside Down Love" – Rev. Dr. Mike Farley

Give electronically at centralpres.com/giving, or by texting CENTRALPRES to 77977

Ubi Caritas

Chancel Choir

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus et in ipso jucundemur.
Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.
Amen.

*Where charity and love are, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.
Amen.*

Latin hymn, 9th C.; Music by Maurice Duruflé

Standing (if able)

(prayers for the church and the world)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

We Offer Ourselves in Gifts and Song

We respond to God's word by offering ourselves to God with renewed love and commitment both in song and in gifts of money to support God's mission in the world.

We Pray For The Church And The World

We respond to God's word by asking him to transform our lives, our communities, and the world through the renewing work of Jesus with the Lord's Prayer as a summary prayer for the mission of God's kingdom.

God Feeds Us at His Table

We celebrate Jesus' triumph over sin, Satan, and death through his death and resurrection by eating and drinking symbols of Jesus' body and blood. The Holy Spirit works through this act to nourish us by the life of Jesus, to unite us with God and with one another in friendship, and to give us a foretaste and promise of Jesus' return to make all things new.

Seated

Central welcomes all Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the gospel to receive Holy Communion with us. If you are not ready to receive communion, we invite you to meditate on one of the prayers below.

Prayer for those searching

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Help me to be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of new belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared believe, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please hold the elements until all have been served, and we will eat and drink together as directed by the pastor. The communion bread is gluten-free.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Therefore, with the whole company of heaven and the whole church on earth, we give you thanks for your great glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(prayer of thanks & words of institution)

Now let us celebrate the feast of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Behold the Lamb



1. Be - hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for us -
 2. The bod - y of our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ, torn for you -
 3. The blood that cleans - es ev - 'ry stain of sin, shed for you -
 4. And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to re - spond -
 and we re - mem - ber the pro - mise made that all who come in faith find for -
 eat and re - mem - ber; the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the
 drink and re - mem - ber he drained death's cup that all may en - ter in to re -
 and to re - mem - ber our call to fol - low in the steps of Christ as his
 give - ness at the cross. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of his
 price to make us one. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of his
 ceive the life of God. So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of his
 bod - y here on earth. So we share in his suf - fer - ing, we pro - claim Christ will
 sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of peace a - round the ta - ble of the King.
 sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of love a - round the ta - ble of the King.
 sac - ri - fice as a sign of our bonds of grace a - round the ta - ble of the King.
 come a - gain! And we'll join in the feast of heav'n a - round the ta - ble of the King.

Text and tune: Keith & Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend
 © 2006 Thankyou Music

Luke 22:39-46

³⁹ And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." ⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." ⁴³ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵ And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

We Meditate on Jesus' Suffering

We remember how Jesus left the comfort of the Upper Room Passover meal to enter struggle and confrontation for us in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Stripping of the Table

We strip our
communion table to
meditate on the way
Jesus began to bear the
weight of our anguish
and suffering as he was
stripped of freedom,
comfort, and honor in
the Garden.

Psalm 88

Chancel Choir

Music: H. Walford Davies

O Lord, God of my salvation,
I cry out day and night before you.
Let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry!
For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am a man who has no strength,
like one set loose among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.
You have put me in the depths of the pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.
You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
my eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call upon you, O Lord;
I spread out my hands to you.
Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the departed rise up to praise you?
Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?
But I, O Lord, cry to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
O Lord, why do you cast my soul away?
Why do you hide your face from me?
Afflicted and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am helpless.
Your wrath has swept over me;
your dreadful assaults destroy me.
They surround me like a flood all day long;
they close in on me together.
You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me;
my companions have become darkness.

Standing (if able)

Psalm 116

Music: *Adagio for Strings*
S. Barber

I love the Lord, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

**Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me;

the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord:

“O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;

our God is merciful.

The Lord preserves the simple;

when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest;

for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

I believed, even when I spoke: “I am greatly afflicted”;

I said in my alarm, “All mankind are liars.”

What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

O Lord, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.

You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

and call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

Seated

We Pray for Jesus’ Grace in our Suffering

As Jesus prayed in the
midst of his anguish,
we pray a psalm long
associated with the
Passover to express our
own anguish, lament,
and confidence in the
face of death because of
Jesus’ suffering for us.

Were You There?

Chancel Ringers

Trad. Spiritual
Arr. Matthew Mazzoni

Meditation

Please Depart Quietly

Liturgist: Matt Woodson

Musicians: Matthew Mazzoni (director), *piano and organ*; Young Kim, *piano and organ*; Christine Sasse, Robert Clemens, Janet Rowden, *violin*; Julie Hoffman, *viola*; Suzanne Harlamert, Luke Brown, *cello*; Julia Clemens, *bass*.

Chancel Ringers: Matthew Mazzoni, (director); Karen Andersen, Jill Clayton, Susan Griesedieck, Amy Jensen, David McCoy, Helen Sandifer, Scott Sandifer, Carolyn Sehorn, Chris Sehorn, Jeanne Weltman.

Recounting Jesus' last days can be a powerful experience. Our services will help you draw near to our Lord throughout the week. Come and let the power of the Easter story transform you anew this year:

- Good Friday, 4/18: 7pm
- Easter Sunrise, 4/20: 7am (at the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park)
- Easter Sunday, 4/20: 9am & 11am

Enjoy an immersive, creative Holy Week Experience for all ages, located in the Student Center.

- Holy Thursday (today, 4/17), 5-7pm; 8-8:30pm
- Good Friday (4/18), 5-7pm

For all the details, visit www.centralpres.com/easter or call (314-727-2777).

Holy Week at Central

Holy Week Experience